

Rather than lowering health care premiums for families by up to \$2,500, as the Republican plan would do, this bill does nothing to help contain rising health care costs—the chief health care concern of most Americans. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office reports that the reconciliation bill will have a similar effect on premiums as the Senate bill, which is to increase insurance premiums for families by \$2,100 per year compared to passing no bill at all. Up to 9 million Americans who currently have health insurance coverage from their employer could lose it under this bill.

I am deeply disappointed that this legislation fails to provide robust protection for the unborn and for taxpayers who oppose their dollars going toward abortion.

Over the next 10 years, this legislation will increase the federal government's commitment to health care by \$400 billion. At a time when the federal deficit is \$1.5 trillion and the national debt is projected to triple by 2020, it is completely irresponsible for Congress to add more unsustainable government spending to the tab that our children and grandchildren will have to pick up.

We can make health care more affordable, available and accessible for everyone without nationalizing the system, raising taxes and piling on the debt. We need to sit down, in a bipartisan way, and work on real reform that will help American families. That is what the American people want and what they deserve.

On behalf of the 19th Congressional District, I stand in strong opposition to this legislation. This Congress must do better; the American people demand that we do better. We must reject this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor the week of Tuesday, March 9, 2010 through Friday, March 12, 2010.

For Tuesday, March 9, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "no" on Rollcall vote No. 92 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3650), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 93 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1069), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 94 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 935).

For Wednesday, March 10, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "no" on Rollcall vote No. 95 (on agreeing to H. Res. 1146, which provides for consideration of H. Con. Res. 248), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 96 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1088), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 97 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 4621), "no" on Rollcall vote No. 98 (on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 248), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 99 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 249), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 100 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1144).

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding a provision classified as an earmark in H.R. 3619, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010, which passed the House on October 23, 2009.

Requesting Member: The Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI

Bill Number: H.R. 3619

Account: No funding, legislative provision in the Coast Guard Authorization Act

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: VCNA Prairie Illinois Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 7601 W. 79th Street, Bridgeview, IL 60455

Description of Request: The legislative provision in the Coast Guard authorization bill would restore Coastwise Trading privileges to the barge *St. Marys Cement*. From the time of construction in 1986 to 2000, *St. Marys Cement* was registered under the U.S. flag with Coastwise Trading privileges. In 2000, the *St. Marys Cement* relinquished Coastwise Trading privileges upon being reflagged under the Canadian flag. Operations have since changed and, in order to maximize efficiency of its U.S. operations, *St. Marys Cement* proposes to operate the barge directly between U.S. ports (including several in Wisconsin). On September 9, 2009, *St. Marys Cement* received a Certificate of Documentation, reestablishing the vessel as an American flagged vessel. Since the vessel was once registered outside the U.S., the only way for *St. Marys Cement* to return to operating directly between U.S. ports is to restore its Coastwise Trading privileges legislatively. Allowing the barge to do so would add American maritime jobs and provide Great Lakes-based manufacturing plants additional business opportunities. The cost of transporting raw materials to U.S. manufacturing facilities in Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin would be reduced. This was a joint request with Representative BART STUPAK and Representative STEVE KAGEN, M.D.

IN HONOR OF NAVY SEAL CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER ADAM BROWN

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero. On March 18, 2010, our state and nation lost a great patriot when Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Adam Brown, age 36, died in Afghanistan from injuries sustained during combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Chief Brown was raised in Arkansas by his loving parents, Larry and Janice Brown, and graduated from Lake Hamilton High School in Hot Springs. Chief Brown also attended Arkansas Tech University in Russellville where he played football. Although I never had the honor to meet Chief Brown, I extend my deepest condolences on behalf of all Arkansans to

his family, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances for this devastating loss.

Chief Brown enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1998 and joined the Navy SEALs in 2001. Since that time, he has been assigned to various East Coast-based SEAL teams where he made several combat deployments in support of the global war on terror, distinguishing himself during numerous combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. He carried out his duties with pride in his country and without reservation, and each of us owes him our eternal gratitude for his selfless sacrifice.

Chief Brown was a highly-decorated combat veteran and received numerous awards and citations during his 12-year Navy career, including the Bronze Star with combat "V" distinguishing device; Purple Heart; Joint Service Commendation Medal with combat "V" distinguishing device; Joint Service Achievement Medal; five Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals; three Good Conduct Medals; the National Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Marksmanship medals for both rifle and pistol; and a multitude of personal, unit, and campaign decorations.

My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his loving wife and two children who live in Virginia Beach, Virginia; his parents, and the rest of his family during this extraordinarily difficult time.

Our nation is safer and stronger because of brave heroes like Chief Brown. Today, I ask all members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Adam Brown and his legacy, as well as each man and woman in our armed forces who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great country.

RECOGNIZING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the Blinded Veterans Association on its 65th anniversary of representing blinded veterans and their families.

On March 28, 1945, 100 blinded members of the Armed Forces who served in World War II formed the Blinded Veterans Association at Avon "Old Farms" Army Convalescent Hospital in Connecticut. The founders of the Blinded Veterans Association were a cross-section of heroes and pioneers who not only shaped the rich history, philosophy, and knowledge of education and rehabilitation of the blind, but also provided insight into current and future challenges facing the blind and engaged in continual advocacy efforts to ensure that services for all blinded persons would be unique and specialized. In 1946, General Omar Bradley, of the Veterans Administration, appointed the Blinded Veterans Association as the first official representative for blinded veterans for the filing of claims and appeals to the Veterans Administration, making the Blinded Veterans Association only the eighth veterans service organization to receive such authorization.